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BOROUGH OF LLANELLY



R E P O R T

OF THE

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

for the year

1 9 3 9

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SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE.

S T A F F :

School Medical Officer :

L.W. POLE, M.B., Ch.B.(Edin.), D.P.H.

Assistant S.M.O. :

M.J. DARBY, M.B., Ch.B., B.A.O.(Belfast)

Eye Specialist (Part time) :

J.J. HEALY, M.B. (Edin.).

Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist :

T.I. WILLIAMS, F.R.C.S.(Edin).

Dental Surgeon :

T.E. MATHIAS, L.R.C.P. & S.(Edin.),

L.R.F.P.S.(Glasgow), L.D.S., R.C.S.
(Edin.).

School Nurse : M. HOPKINS.

School Nurses and Health Visitors :

M.C. JONES, G. GREENE,

G.M. ROBERTS, S. THOMAS.

Orthopaedic Sister :

M.G. THOMAS (resigned August, 1939).

M. HUGHES (assumed duty Sept. 1939).

Dental Assistant : M. MORGAN.

Chief Clerk : W.J. SYMMONS.

Clerk : J. DAVIES.

2.

MEDICAL INSPECTION ~~ON~~ ARRANGEMENTS-Children in the same age groups as in former years were medically inspected at the schools. Special examinations of children prior to their selection for attendance at the Pendine Camp and of children referred to the medical inspection clinic were also undertaken.

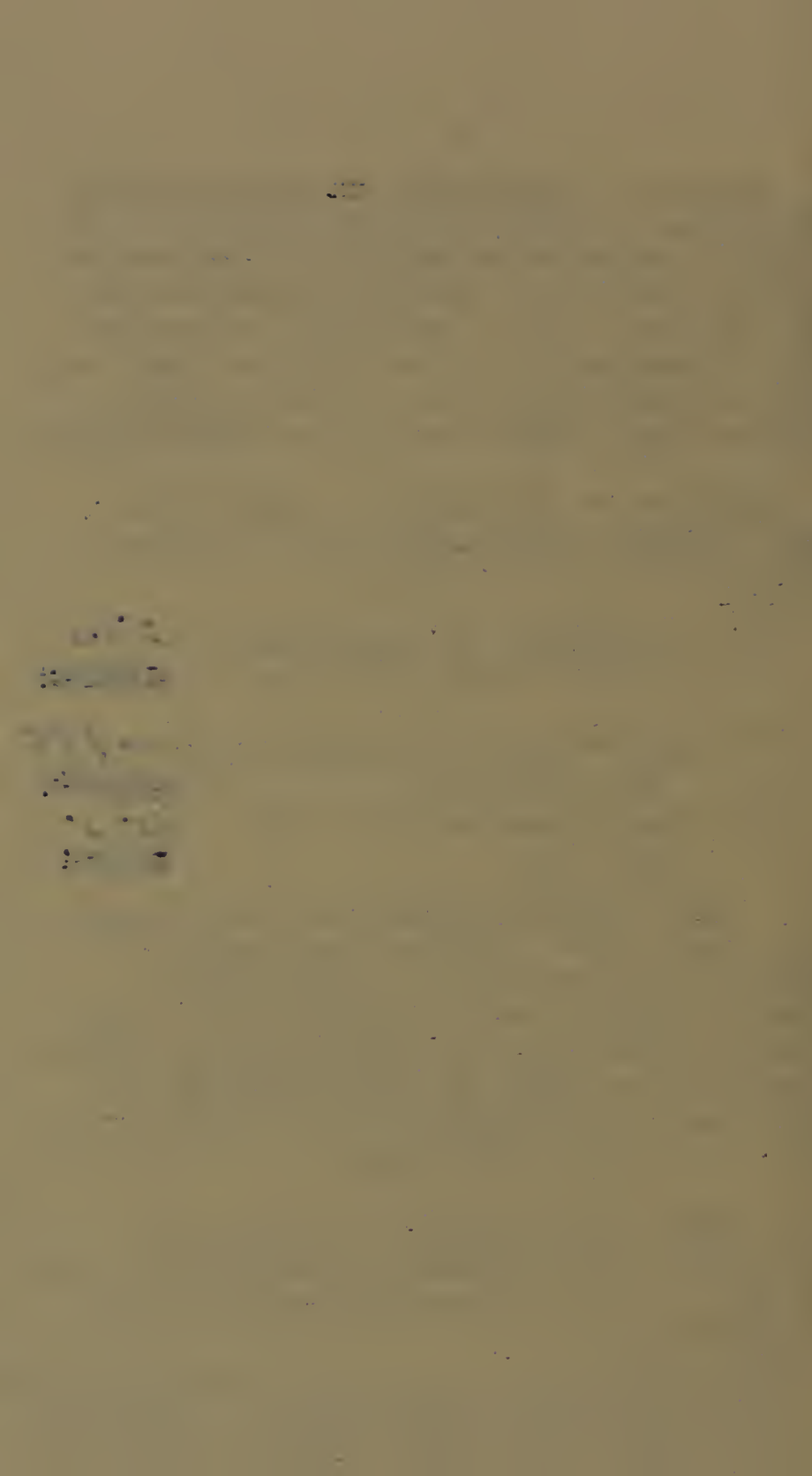
NUMBER OF CHILDREN ON REGISTERS, AND AVERAGE ATTENDANCE for the year ended 31st March, 1940 :-

- (a) the number of children on ^{5,161} school registers was ... ~~4,712~~
- (b) the average attendance for ^{4,388} the year was ... ~~4,372~~
- (c) the percentage for the ^{85.5} year was ... ~~86.5~~

The reconstruction of the former New Dock Boys', Girls' and Infants' Schools to provide an Infant and Nursery School was completed in September, 1939, but its opening was postponed on account of the outbreak of war when the premises were adapted for use as a First Aid Post.

The total number of children inspected at "routine" examinations was 1,589. This number was made up as follows:-

140 entrants	-	81 boys	59 girls
379 second age group	-	178 "	201 "
795 third age group	-	368 "	427 "
275 other ages	-	141 "	134 "



3.

The number of children referred to the weekly medical inspection clinic was 211, exclusive of 381 children examined as to their fitness to attend the School Camp, Pendine.

Number of re-inspections was 182.

HEIGHTS AND WEIGHTS.- For reasons of space, the tables usually set out of heights and weights have not been included in this report.

CLOTHING.-

"Fair"- 148 children - 9.30% (1938-5.98%)
 "Bad" - 47 " - 2.95% (1938-2.92%)

FOOTGEAR.-

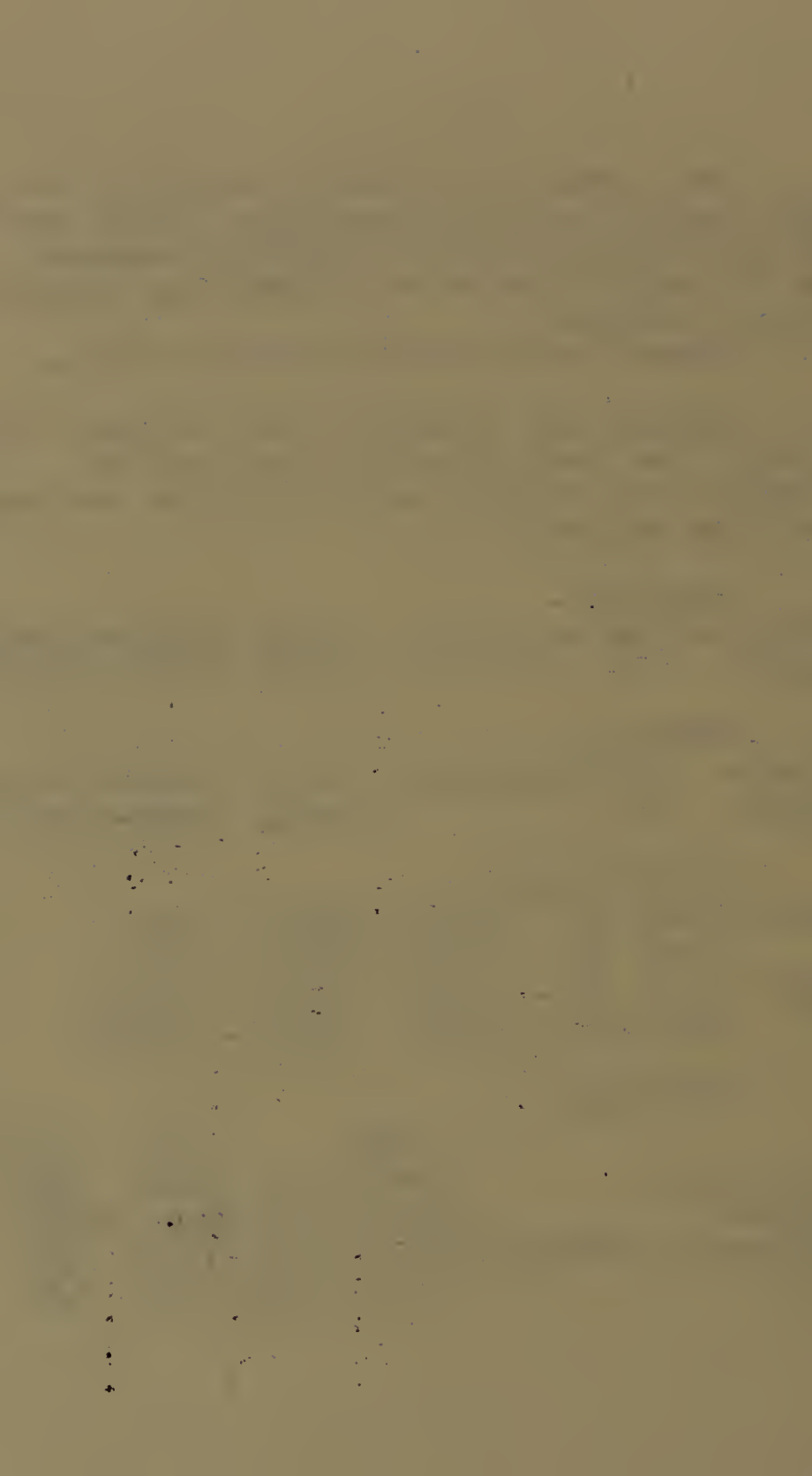
"Fair" - 89 children - 5.60% (1938-5.27%)
 "Bad" - 67 " - 4.21% (1938-2.42%)

UNCLEANLINESS.-

Body: Boys 41 - 5.33% (1938- 3.27%)
 Girls 91 - 11.08% (1938- 3.12%)
 Head: Boys 38 - 4.95% (1938 - 2.18%)
 Girls 193 - 23.50% (1938 - 9.23%)

NUTRITION.

	1939	1938	1937
Excellent	198-12.4%	12.6%	3.6%
Normal	1027-34.6%	64.4%	86.4%
Slightly subnormal	343-21.6%	17.3%	9.6%
Bad	21- 1.32%	0.6%	0.2%



The number of children receiving milk in the schools, either free or at the cost of 1d. per pint was 2,850. No precise information is available as to the effects on the nutrition of the children of the milk supplied to them, but there can be no doubt as to its beneficial influence on the nutrition of children particularly in the case of families that normally purchase very little milk. Milk is also available for consumption at their homes to children absent from school for medical reasons.

SKIN DISEASES:-

8½ Cases

EYE DISEASES:-

Blepharitis : 64 Cases

Squint : 23 Cases

DEFECTIVE VISION. - The following table shows the results of the examination of 1,449 children.

Defective Vision	Boys	Girls	TOTAL	Per cent
1 Both eyes normal	626	648	1274	87.92
2 One eye normal one eye slightly defective	14	22	36	2.49
3 One eye normal one eye very defective	29	27	56	3.86
4 Both eyes slightly defective	2	16	18	1.25
5 One slightly defective one very defective	2	8	10	0.69
6 Both very defective	15	40	55	3.79
TOTAL	633	761	1449	100.00

1 and 2 are classed as "good" vision- 90.41 per cent. 3 and 4 as "fair" vision- 5.11 per cent. 5 and 6 as "bad" vision- 4.48 per cent.

Children are examined at the Eye Clinic after being referred to the Eye Specialist by the School Medical Officer.

DEFECTIVE HEARING.- 12 children - 0.75 per cent had markedly defective hearing, the whispering test being used.

NOSE AND THROAT.- Enlarged tonsils of moderate degree. 287 children - 18.06 per cent. (132 boys; 155 girls.)

Enlarged tonsils of marked degree, 65 children - 4.09 per cent. (29 boys and 36 girls).

Tonsils and adenoids present together 42 children- 2.64 per cent. (22 boys 20 girls)

DEFECTIVE SPEECH. - 11 children,- 0.69 per cent.

HEART AND CIRCULATION - Organic disease of the heart - 9 children 0.56 per cent.; functional disease of the heart - 117 children. 7.36 per cent anaemia - 150 children 9.43 per cent.

RICKETS.- 40 children showed some signs of deformity resulting from this disease.

SPECIAL EXAMINATIONS- The chief conditions discovered were:-

Skin diseases	48
Eye diseases	11
Defective vision and squint			97
Anaemia	116
Pulmonary tuberculosis	...		1
Chorea	...		9
Organic heart disease	...		20

TREATMENT OF DEFECTS FOUND AT MEDICAL INSPECTION.

SCHOOL CLINIC.- The average daily attendance was 45. The number ranged between 30 and 60 on the days when the schools were open. During all holidays the clinic is open for treatment.

When the condition of a child is such that general treatment is indicated remedies such as Cod Liver Oil and Malt Extract are provided. A complete record is kept of all children receiving Cod Liver Oil and Malt Extract without payment and this is only issued free after parents have completed a form giving information as to the income per head received every week by the parents.

The following table gives a summary of the work of the School Clinic.

TREATMENT OF MINOR AILMENTS.

CONDITION	No. of cases under treatment 1st Jan	Total No. of cases	Total No. of attendances	Average attendance per child	Cured	Improved	Not improved	Under treatment at end of year	REMARKS
Ringworm: head	1	5	18	6.0	3	1	1	1	14x
body	1	15	123	9.4	15	1	1	1	5x
Scabies	2	21	255	12.1	21	1	1	1	2x
Impetigo	1	38	583	6.6	38	1	1	1	1x
Minor Injuries	1	511	1915	3.7	495	16	1	3	2x
Septic Sores	3	901	4392	4.8	895	6	1	1	-
Vermis: head	-	27	294	10.8	24	3	1	-	-
body	-	1	3	3.0	-	1	-	-	2x
Other skin diseases	-	43	166	3.8	41	2	-	2	-
Ear Disease	-	4	25	5.7	2	2	-	-	-
Eye Disease	-	30	105	5.5	30	-	-	-	2x
Miscellaneous	-	36	52	1.4	34	2	-	-	-
TOTAL	6	1678	7929	4.7	1646	32	-	6	26x

x 26 cases referred to own Doctor.

DULL AND BACKWARD CHILDREN.

No. of children examined in 1939	33
Recommended for retention in Special Class	17
Recommended for transfer from Ordinary to Special Class	5
Recommended for transfer from Special to Ordinary Class	9
Not suitable for Special Class	2

NOTIFICATION OF FEEBLE-MINDED
AND OTHER CHILDREN. - Two girls were
notified to the Local Authority,
The County Council, under the Mental
Deficiency Regulations, 1928, during
the year.

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT.-
Dr. T. E. Mathias, the School Dental
Surgeon, submits the following table
showing the number of children and
nature of work done in the Routine
Age groups. In addition to the Rout-
ine Group, 473 specials and 50 Evac-
uees were attended to during the year.

The table shows that there is
a considerable decrease in the per-
centage of children found to require
treatment.

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT.

Age	No. in- spected	No. found to require treatment	Number treated	Teeth filled	Teeth ex- tracted	Percentage of teeth filled to teeth extracted.
6	534	297 - 77.3%	202-68.0%	22	712	3.0%
7	415	360 - 86.7%	224-62.2%	123	552	22.2%
8	416	370 - 88.9%	231-62.1%	194	515	37.6%
9	410	339 - 82.6%	221-65.1%	203	554	60.7%
10	598	514 - 78.8%	177-56.3%	229	233	98.2%
11	576	501 - 80.0%	135-44.8%	105	153	67.2%
12	177	141 - 79.6%	42-29.7%	60	48	125.0%
All ages	2576	2122- 82.3%	1252-58.0%	934	2547	56.6%

ORTHOPAEDICS.

Details of the work done are set out in tabular forms as follows:

	Education Committee.	M.&C.W. Cmtee.	TOTAL
No. of individual cases under Scheme on 1st January, 1939.	133	88	221
No. of new cases	43	43	86
No. of cases withdrawn	34	24	58
No. of cases transferred to Scheme	13	3	16
No. of cases transferred from Scheme	9	16	25
No. of children under Scheme on 31. Dec. 1939	146	94	240
No. of individual cases dealt with during year	189	134	
Total No. of individual cases			313
Total No. of attendances at Clinic	1876	1046	2922
No. of manipulations by Sister	1052	835	1885
No. of plasters supplied	6	46	52
No. of plasters re-inforced	5	11	16
No. of individual cases received remedial exercises by Sister	49	3	52
No. of individual cases massaged by Sister	-	2	2
No. of homes visited by Sister	12	4	16
No. of cases examined by Visiting Surgeon	42	30	72
No. of cases advised inpatient treatment	5	1	4

TREATMENT OF ENLARGED TONSILS AND ADENOIDS. - Five children whose parents were not subscribers under the Workmen's Medical Scheme were referred by me to Dr. T. I. Williams, the Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist, for operative treatment.

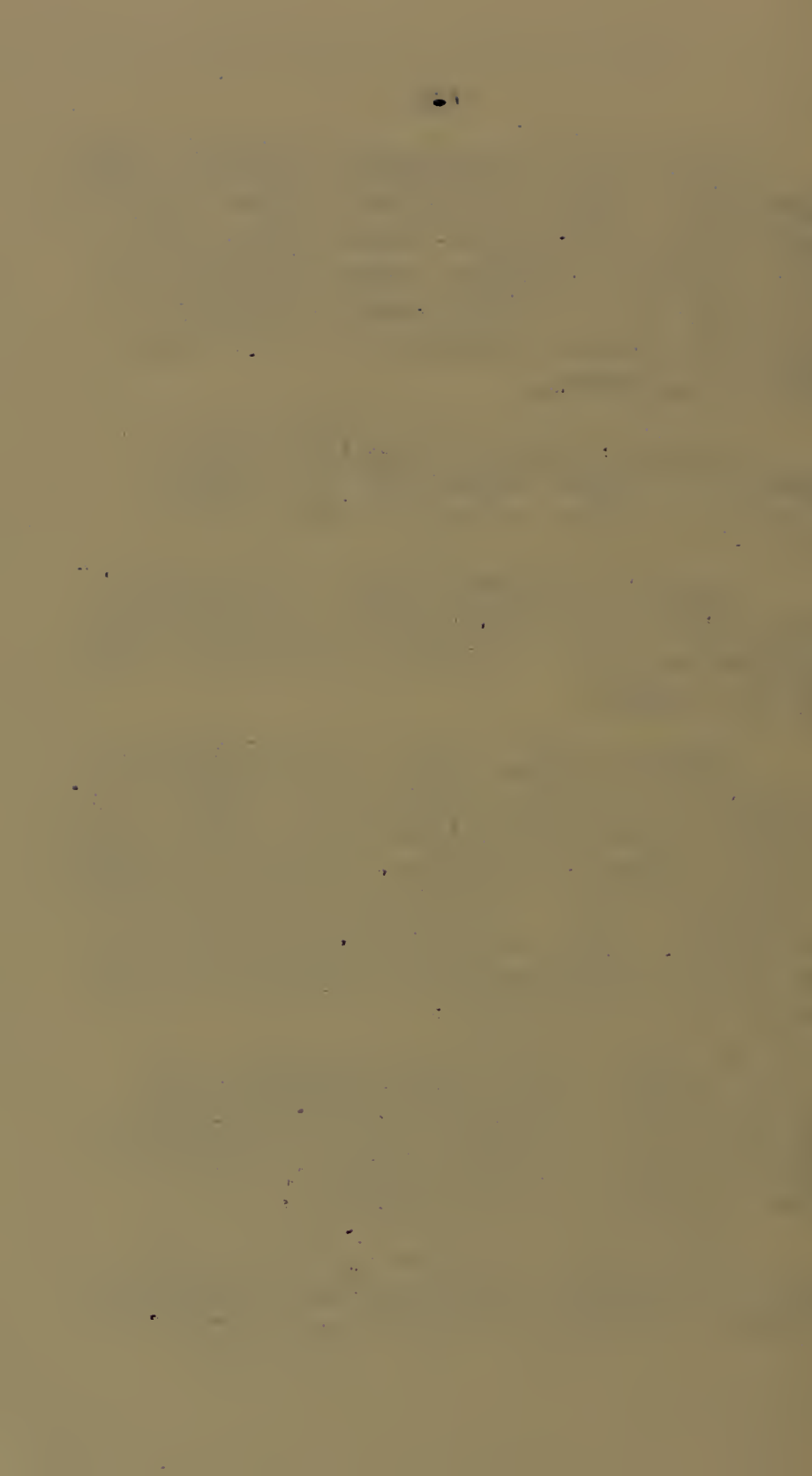
BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.- Number of swabs examined for diphtheria, 49 (including 23 Evacuees.)

MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF TEACHERS.- 5 teachers were medically examined on appointment to a school and were found fit for duty.

SCHOOL CAMP.- The Camp functioned as usual in 1939 during the months of May and September, inclusive, but owing to the outbreak of war, it was decided to curtail the period of occupation of the camp. The arrangements made for the last contingents of children were therefore cancelled.

Weather conditions during the summer were distinctly unfavourable but notwithstanding this disadvantage the children received much benefit from their stay at Pendine.

During the greater part of the month of August the camp was occupied by School children from Llanelly.



The numbers of children sent to the camp in 1939 by the participating authorities were:-

Aberdare	110	Glamorgan County	251
Abertillery	99	Merthyr Tydfil	66
Brecon County	87	Pontypridd	108
Carmarthen Cty.	76	Rhondda	242
" Bero.	40		
			<u>1074</u>

Gross cost per child for two weeks:
£2.5.10d.

EVACUATED CHILDREN:- At the outbreak of war 1533 children were received in Llanelly. As soon as practicable after their arrival all were medically inspected. In a small proportion of cases verminous conditions were found at the time of their arrival and arrangements were made for the billeting of these children in the Hostel, New Road. The children were effectively treated at the School Clinic.

All the facilities for medical inspection and treatment were available for the evacuated children a special record being kept of these children, including the cost of any special treatment that was found to be required.

By the end of the year the original number of evacuated children had been reduced to 285 because of the desire of parents to have them returned to their homes.

L. W. B.

